

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 471 without my signature.

This bill places state education policy to be in conflict with the No Child Left Behind Act and thus jeopardizes \$3.1 billion in federal funds for California schools. It authorizes the Superintendent of Public Instruction to unilaterally determine if the federal government “fully” funds the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and declare that the State and its school districts shall not comply with any portions of NCLB that are found to be under funded.

As a donor state, California annually receives far less money than it sends to the federal government. I am unwilling to actively place the federal government in a position to withhold over \$3 billion in federal education resources from California schools, especially at a time when we should be providing parents, students, and teachers with the encouragement that all of our state leaders are working together to make our education system the best that it can be.

Finally, not only does this bill undermine the intent of the NCLB Act to ensure that all students are held to the same standards, it also undermines California’s existing assessment and accountability system.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger